Entry of HAL into global civilian aircraft market

802. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) which are the aircrafts now being manufactured and proposed to be built by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore;

(b) the steps so far taken to enter the global civilians aircraft market; and

(c) the details of the negotiations for procuring orders for the aircrafts manufactured by HAL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI .B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The aircrafts manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) are: Jaguar International Aircraft, Sukhoi-30 MKI, Dornier-228, Light Combat Aircraft, Intermediate Jet Trainer, Advanced Light Helicopter, Cheetah/Chetak Helicopters and Pilotless Target Aircraft.

The future projects for manufacturing of aircraft are: 'Hawk' Advanced Jet Trainer, Indigenous Advanced Jet Trainer, Turbo Trainer Aircraft, Light Combat Helicopter and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

(b) HAL has signed a memorandum of understanding with Israel Aircraft Industries for global marketing of Advanced Light Helicopter. For marketing purpose, HAL products are displayed and showcased in prominent airshows abroad. Also, HAL participates in the programmes of various off-shore aerospace companies for supply of work packages as sub-contractor.

(c) HAL is following up with different countries on possibility of export of aircrafts and helicopters.

Effect of unavailability of INS Vikrant

803. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's only aircraft carrier INS Vikrant is being repaired and unavailable for use;

(b) whether because of this Navy's operations will in any way be hampered; and

(c) the action proposed to save India from such precarious situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) INS Vikrant has been decommissioned from the Indian Navy on 31 st January, 1997 and is no longer available to the Navy for deployment.

(b) Decommissioning of ships by the Indian Navy is done in a planned and phased manner. Currently the aircraft carrier Viraat is operational.

(c) Induction of new naval ships, including aircraft carrier is planned. The Navy has finalised the purchase of a new aircraft carrier in January, 2004.

Ban on entry into DSOI, Delhi

804. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people wearing dhotis and kurta-pyjama are banned from entering Defence Services Officers' Institute, New Delhi (Dhaula Kuan); and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to remove such a ban immediatel?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Defence Sevices, Officers' Institute has been established from the Defence Services Officers' Welfare Fund and has members exclusively from the Armed Forces. Like any service institute it has its own rules and by-laws and a strict dress code for its members, guests and visiting dignitaries. Only full or half sleeve shirt or T-shirt with collar, trousers and shoes are allowed. In formal functions lounge suit or national dress is prescribed. This is strictly followed.

Causes of Jaguar crashes

†805. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircrafts out of the fleet of Jaguar destroyed due to the accidents and the number of pilots killed therein;

(b) whether increasing age or the absence of timely technical assistance and advice by the French company to the Air Force regarding maintenance of these aircrafts have been the main reasons for such accidents;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.